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UNITED STATES.

REPORTS TO THE SURGEON-GENERAL, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

Infected Ground Squirrels.

An infected ground squirrel was found March 4, 1910, in Oakland township.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McCoy reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened January 30, 1908. Last case of rodent plague trapped October 23, 1908. Total number of rats found infected to date, 398.

Week ended March 5, 1910. Premises inspected, 1,340. Houses destroyed, 8. Buildings condemned, 6. Nuisances abated, 302. Poisons placed, 7,810. Rats trapped, 2,045. Rats found dead, 24. Rats identified, 2,069, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 1,502; *Mus rattus*, 140; *Mus musculus*, 338; *Mus alexandrinus*, 89. Rats examined bacteriologically, 1,731. No plague-infected rats found.

BERKELEY, CAL.

There is no record of rodent plague at Berkeley. The last case of human plague sickened August 28, 1907.

Week ended February 26, 1910. One rat was trapped and examined bacteriologically. No plague infection found.

OAKLAND, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened October 26, 1909. Last case of rodent plague trapped December 1, 1908.

Week ended March 5, 1910. Rats found dead, 26. Rats trapped 500. Gophers trapped, 1. Rats identified, 526, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 458; *Mus rattus*, 3; *Mus musculus*, 65. Examined bacteriologically, 452 rats and 1 gopher. No plague infection found.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL. (Exclusive of Oakland).

Last case of human plague sickened 2 miles southwest of Sunol, September 26, 1909. Last plague-infected rodent was found March 4, 1910. To the present time 65 ground squirrels and 1 wood rat have been found infected.

Week ended February 26. Ranches inspected, 5. Ground squirrels shot, 17. Acres covered with poison, 65. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 17. No plague-infected squirrels found.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 7. Ground squirrels shot, 117. Acres covered with poison, 121. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 117. One plague-infected squirrel found.

The plague-infected squirrel was found March 4, in Oakland township.

FRESNO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Fresno County.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 32. Ground squirrels shot, 603. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 599. No plague-infected squirrels found.

MADERA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Madera County.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 2. Ground squirrels shot, 100. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 100. No plague-infected squirrels found.

MERCED COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Merced County.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 6. Ground squirrels shot, 284. Rabbits shot, 23. Examined bacteriologically, 281 squirrels and 21 rabbits. No plague infection found.

MONTEREY COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Monterey County.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 31. Ground squirrels shot, 445; found dead, 2. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 442. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in San Luis Obispo County. A plague-infected rodent was found January 29, 1910.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 21. Ground squirrels shot, 194. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 194. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Santa Barbara County.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 32. Ground squirrels shot, 261. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 258. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in Santa Clara County. The last plague-infected rodent was found November 3, 1909. Total number of ground squirrels found infected to date, 9.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 12. Ground squirrels shot, 160. Rats trapped, 4. Mice trapped, 4. Examined bacteriologically, 160 ground squirrels, 4 rats, and 4 mice. No plague infection found.

TULARE COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Tulare County.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 116. Ground squirrels shot, 511; found dead, 2. Rabbits shot, 2. Weasels shot, 2. Examined bacteriologically, 512 squirrels, 2 rabbits, and 2 weasels. No plague infection found.

VENTURA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Ventura County.

Week ended March 5. Ranches inspected, 8. Ground squirrels shot, 134. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 132. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SEATTLE, WASH.

Assistant Surgeon Chapin reports, March 4, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Glover:

During the month of February, 1910, 3,637 rats were received at the laboratory and 2,928 were necropsied. Of the necropsied rats 1,163 were females, of which 406 were pregnant.

A rat picked up on February 8, 1910, by a city trapper was verified and reported as plague infected on February 19.

This rat was found in the back yard of a building, the ground floor of which was occupied by two restaurants, a fruit store, saloon, and drug store. The yard also adjoins a building on the other street occupied by a restaurant. These buildings are of wooden construction resting on piles. The yard was occupied by a wooden platform and woodpile, etc., and the ground was burrowed by rats. The platform and woodpile were moved and the ground covered with gravel by order of the municipal department of health and the floors of the buildings were also ordered concreted. Special attention has been given to the sanitary conditions of that and surrounding blocks.

Since the finding of this infected rat an area of 9 blocks has been trapped and the territory for 2 blocks farther on each side has been poisoned. From the infected premises there have been received 10 rats, from the block 19 rats, and from the district 126 rats, none of which have shown any evidence of plague infection.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF NATIVES OF UNALASKA, ALASKA.

Surgeon Stimpson, on the revenue cutter *Manning*, reports, October 12, 1909:

There are 360 natives at Unalaska, 93 on St. George Island, and 198 on St. Paul Island. The physicians on the island state that fully 60 per cent of the natives under their care are suffering from tuberculosis and at least that number at Unalaska are afflicted with the disease. Tuberculosis exists in all forms, and there are few children who do not show swollen glands or some other evidence of the disease. Many of them improved during the summer of 1909 under treatment. They have gained in weight, their skins are clearer, and their sores have healed. An effort is being made to instruct the natives in the precautions to be taken to avoid contracting tuberculosis, such as forbidding indiscriminate spitting, requiring the burning of sputum, and sleeping with the windows open. There is no wood on the islands and coal is expensive, so that there is a tendency to keep the houses closed to save fuel.

The natives suffer from decayed teeth. If a dentist could visit the islands in the summer much pain could be prevented and many teeth saved.

There is a shortage of water at St. Paul village. The supply is now obtained by hauling water in wagons and wheelbarrows from wells situated at some distance from the village. The natives could keep their houses cleaner if they had an abundance of water and the danger of the spread of infection would be greatly lessened.